

Support for new claims 16-26 appears in general throughout the Specification and in particular, as follows:

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| Claim 16 | Original claim 13 |
| Claim 17 | Original claim 1 |
| Claim 18 | Original claim 1 |
| Claim 19 | Original claim 5 |
| Claim 20 | Original claim 1 |
| Claim 21 | Original claim 2 |
| Claim 22 | Original claim 3 |
| Claim 23 | Original claim 4 |
| Claim 24 | Original claim 1 |
| Claim 25 | Original claim 1; page 6, line 23 |
| Claim 26 | Original claim 6 |

New claim 16 is directed to a method of preparing a flexible solid intumescent fire barrier material by providing a mixture of intumescent material and organic binder in a substantially volatile free state and mixing them at high shear conditions. New claim 16 is believed to be allowable over the cited references for the following reasons.

As explained on page 2, line 24 of the present application, the present invention discovered that compounding ingredients under high shear conditions in a substantially volatile-free condition results in fire barrier materials with improved tensile properties, improved Shore and penetrometer hardness values, and higher volumetric expansions upon exposure to fire or extreme heat when compared to formulations which were prepared with a volatile solvent or carrier present. For example, fire barrier materials produced by high shear compounding with polymer from a dried latex demonstrated significantly improved properties over control formulations with the same ingredients which were thoroughly mixed in the wet state and then allowed to dry without high shear mixing in the dry state. This is shown in Examples 1-4, the results of which are tabulated in Tables 6, 7, and 8 on pages 17 and 18 of the present application. As shown in Tables 6 and 8, the dried emulsions of Examples 1 and 3 had significantly greater ultimate strength, ultimate elongation, Shore A hardness, and expansion ratios compared with those of Comparative Examples 2 and 4. Thus, the present invention unexpectedly found that mixing ingredients in a substantially volatile free state at high shear resulted in fire barrier materials with significantly improved properties.

Since none of the cited references discloses, teaches, or suggests making a fire barrier material comprising a mixture of intumescent material and organic binder by mixing them at high shear conditions in a substantially volatile-free state, or recognized the advantages of such a method, the method as defined in new claims 16-26 are believed to be allowable. Reconsideration is requested.

If the Examiner believes there are any outstanding matters in the present application which could be resolved with a telephonic conference, the Examiner is encouraged to contact applicants' undersigned representative.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix A

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

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For: INTUMESCENT FIRE SEALING COMPOSITION

In the Claims

Claims 1-15 have been cancelled.

Claims 16-26 are new.